

2007 General Session Review

**Legislation Related to
Government Operations**

Open and Public Meetings

2007 Session

- Authorized creation of the Utah Public Notice Website
 - ▶ Notice of public meetings required to be posted on website beginning on April 1, 2008 (HB 222)
- Minutes on public comments (HB 10)
 - ▶ Include the name of each public commentator recognized by the chair
 - ▶ Include the substance of the public's comments in general
- Topics not on agenda but raised by public may be discussed, if action is not taken until a later meeting (HB 204)
- Expanded exemption from recorded minutes to all special districts with budgets under \$50,000 (HB 257)

State Employee Compensation

2007 General Session

- Increased state treasurer's salary (HB 304)
- Appointed executives - Uniform salary range (SB 196)
 - ▶ Affects executive branch directors, commissioners
 - ▶ DHRM determines range annually based on market studies and salaries of the appointed executives' deputies
- Increased teacher salaries (HB 382)
 - ▶ \$68.7 million ongoing for salary increases
 - ▶ \$33 million one time for bonus
- Increased state employee salaries (SB 228)
 - ▶ 3.5% COLA and 1.5% discretionary increase
 - ▶ Corrections, UHP, and the Attorney General's Office received additional salary increases

Election Law

2007 General Session

- Earlier date for municipal general election (HB 347)
- Established Statewide Voter Information Website (HB 223)
- Funded Western States Presidential Primary (SB 3)
- Local election changes (HB 347)
 - ▶ Permitted limited hours for early voting in local elections
 - ▶ Removed requirement that disabled-accessible machines be used for early voting in local elections
 - ▶ Permitted municipalities to combine more voting districts in a single polling place
 - ▶ Modified local referendum and initiative ballot title drafting and appeal procedures (SB 197)

Election Law

(continued)

- Eliminated satellite registration and extended the period for registration at the county clerk's office (SB 221)
- Simplified voter registration and provisional ballot forms (HB 14) and (SB 221)
- Established uniform initiative and referendum signature verification standards (HB 63)
- Required release of information on absentee and provisional ballots shortly after the election (SB 241)

Campaign Finance Legislative Ethics

2007 General Session

- Required officeholders to file annual campaign finance summary reports (SB 246)
- Modified lobbyist gift rules (SB 246)
 - ▶ Lobbyists and principals file quarterly
 - ▶ Government officers and employees file during each quarter that they make a gift
 - ▶ Requires reporting by name of recipients of:
 - Reimbursement for travel and lodging expenses
 - Tangible gifts over \$10
 - Professional and collegiate sports admission
 - Expenses of over \$50 in one day

State Land State Construction and Facilities

2007 General Session

- Established procedures to permit private memorials to be placed on state land (HB 253)
- Governmental immunity for owners of canals or ditches that are next to local government trails in some circumstances (SB 98)
- Raised the cost thresholds for legislative approval of State Building Board and Division of Facilities Construction & Management building and remodeling projects (HB 216)

Other Areas

2007 General Session

- **Division of Fleet Operations Efficiency** (HB 110)
 - Require agencies to report on vehicle and fuel cost efficiencies
 - Establish standard vehicle sizes
- **Fiscal Analyst to provide annual report on state and federal expenditures for government assistance** (HB 89)
- **Enacted criminal provisions for intentional disruption of funeral services** (HB 205)
- **Moved non-attorney employees of the Attorney general's office from the state-wide personnel system to the Attorney General's own personnel system** (HB 316)

Other Areas

(continued)

- Defined areas subject to legislative control in the remodeled capitol building (HB 317)
- Modernized Unclaimed Property Act Provisions (HB 219)
 - ▶ Permitted sale of abandoned property via internet
 - ▶ Permitted electronic book entry procedures related to stocks